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VOLUME TWO

ISSUE TEN

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# Chains of debt make poverty permanent



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

When I hear an unhoused person complain that all the money they just made was sucked up by bills, the chatter in my head goes something like, "Bills? What kind of bills could you have? You live in a tent so there's no rent, mortgage or utility bills. You have no car so there are no repair bills, registration, car or insurance payments. Where is that money going?"

It turns out that the unhoused still have most of those bills, they just are no longer receiving the use of those assets while they pay for them.

People struggle mightily to retain their homes and the services to which they are accustomed. In the decades of loose credit, many financed several years of payments for basic services, feeling sure they would soon find a new or better job. By the time new credit was denied them, they had mountains of debt they could likely never repay, had assets repossessed, and were evicted from their homes. That was also when the law changed to make it much more difficult to declare personal bankruptcy.

A decade ago, there was a lot of buzz around debt forgiveness for highly indebted, impoverished countries as part of the year 2000 Jubilee. (The Old Testament strictures of debt forgiveness every seven years and the restoration of acquired ancestral lands every 50 years provided the rallying cry for this movement.) Third world countries had received numerous loans in the 1960's and 1970's for development projects conceived of and routinely built by contractors from developed nations, who paid themselves with money that was loaned to the recipient country.

These projects were often ill-conceived

and resulted in no benefit to any but the contractors.

When countries could not even keep up with the interest payments on their debts and started defaulting, their debts were restructured during the 1980's and 1990's in a way that was supposed to provide debt relief. Instead, it spread out the payments by providing more loans to pay back some of the original loans. Conditions on these loans forced countries to stop providing any free basic health care or education for their people as a "cost recovery" measure.

With more than 40% of many countries' GDP servicing debt without making a dent on the principal, and infant mortality rates climbing after decades of declining, policy makers responded to the demands of people everywhere for governments and international financial institutions to cancel some of those debts.

Some indebted countries with responsible governments that pledged to redirect and track the debt servicing money into providing basic services for their people, had many of their debts forgiven. The children in those countries now go to school and receive treatment for common illnesses. Electricity, running water and sanitation systems are making their way from the cities to rural outposts.

They are developing the infrastructure to produce goods and services valued in the world economy so they can take care of themselves.

We could take the lessons learned abroad and apply them at home: redirect onerous debt payments to the tools for financial independence for those demonstrating a commitment to self-sufficiency. Provide a moratorium on payments while sustainable financial footing is regained. Include protection from unscrupulous businesses like the predatory Vulture Fund traders that buy poor countries' defaulted debt for pennies on the dollar, then sue for huge profits once the country gets debt relief.

The Michigan legislature recently limited residents to no more than four years of welfare assistance in a lifetime. Labor Department figures show Michigan's unemployment rate at 11.1 percent and those do not even include the many people who are so discouraged they are no longer actively looking for work. Available jobs are often beyond the reach of public transportation. With limited income siphoned off to pay old debts, saving for the car or education necessary for better employment is impossible.

There needs to be a way out. And there needs to be a better way to handle this mounting problem.

## GROUNDCOVER NEWS

### MISSION:

Groundcover News exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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## November Calendar of Events

Registration required: email  
contact@groundcovernews.com  
with questions or to preregister.

**Nov. 2** — Groundcover volunteer meeting, 7 p.m., Gallery Rm, Bethlehem UCC, 423 S. 4th Ave, Ann Arbor.

**Nov. 3, 10, 17** — Groundcover Writer's Workshop 7 - 8:30 p.m., Bethlehem UCC  
Feature and profile writing for Groundcover newspaper and others who want to improve their writing. Led by Vickie Elmer. Eve Silberman, the profiles editor for the Ann Arbor Observer, and Kyle Poplin, editor of The Ann magazine, will be guest presenters at sessions 2 and 3. Cost: \$30 donation or two articles for Groundcover.

**Nov. 5** — National Alliance for Mentally Ill - Washtenaw County: Paths to Recovery 1-Day Conference on Mental Illness 8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor  
Keynote speaker, morning and afternoon workshops, breakfast and lunch included.  
Free (donations accepted). Register: 734-994-6611 or go to NAMIWC.org.

**Nov. 17** — Peace Neighborhood Annual Benefit Dinner honoring Alan Newman and Roddy Wares, 6:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran

Church, 1501 W Liberty St., Ann Arbor Tickets \$125 and up. Ticket and information at [www.peaceneighborhoodcenter.org](http://www.peaceneighborhoodcenter.org)

**Nov. 19** — AA talk about his life by Robert Salo, Groundcover vendor, 7:30 p.m., Delonis Center, refreshments will be served, all are welcome.

**Nov. 28** — World AIDS Week kickoff, U-M Diag. A full week of educational events and free HIV testing on campus and around town. See [worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com](http://worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com) for more details.

**Dec. 1** — HARC Wine Cellar gala fundraiser. More details at [hivaidresource.org/winecellar](http://hivaidresource.org/winecellar)



## "Biggering" expands communities of caring and sharing

by Rev. Dr.  
Martha Brunell  
Pastor,

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Dr. Seuss, as he romped through the English language, used the word "biggering" to describe an enlargement of things. A life giving impulse of recent years is that we have "biggered" the participation of the wider community in various disease processes through pledge walks, special fundraising events, and recognizable slogans on clothing, water bottles, key chains, magnets, and countless other products. One of the best known examples of this "biggered" participation is the number of people involved in awareness and advocacy around breast cancer.

Saturday, October 22 was the date for the eleventh annual Ann Arbor Area Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Through this and other efforts, the American Cancer Society wants to "bigger" the number of birthdays for those diagnosed with breast cancer. In its early years, this walk wound its way through downtown Ann Arbor. Then it moved to Gallup Park. It was decided last year that the walk had "biggered" too much for the Gallup Park location. This year we walked for the first time at Eagle Crest Resort & Golf Club in Ypsilanti.

A chilly fall morning was punctuated with the energy and commitment of so many people. The numbers of people, the size of the site, and the length of our walk weren't the only examples of "biggering"

that I noted. Lots of walkers displayed large stickers on their jackets, sweaters, and fleeces naming beloved ones for whom they walked in honor or in memory. The sticker sometimes mentioned the relationship of that person to the walker. The sticker that most caught my attention was on the back of a good-sized guy. His sticker bore this name: Everyone. I couldn't take my eyes off it, and my heart sang with gratitude for such a "biggered" understanding of those we honored and remembered. Other smaller stickers were on the coat sleeves or jacket fronts of survivors. They penned on them the number of years they had survived.

I walked out with a woman I know who has been a survivor for 36 years. My mother was diagnosed 40 years ago and died eight years later. I said to

my companion, "You dealt with breast cancer in the years when we didn't talk about it." And she replied, "Yes, it was a very solitary journey." Once more my heart sang with thanks for how we as a community have learned to "bigger" our shared experience, so that those living with breast cancer or other diagnoses don't need to journey alone.

In another arena, Groundcover, is one of my favorite examples of the "biggering" of a local community. The paper brings together those with and without a roof over their heads to imagine, to write about, to photograph, and to describe a different vision and the work that vision will require. Groundcover denies that homelessness is solely a personal struggle. Homelessness isn't the issue of some and not the issue of

others. From a perception of the common good, homelessness touches all of us and asks for a creative and compassionate response from each one of us. Whether we write for the paper, buy the paper, sell the paper, promote the paper, financially support the paper, pray for the paper, or meet to improve and expand the paper, we place ourselves on the sacred space of common ground. We make room for the broadening and deepening of what we know and how we feel. Tough questions get in our way. Possibilities of partnership emerge. The shape and the substance of an enriched and diverse community land on the edges of our peripheral sight. Groundcover offers precious opportunities for county residents in various walks of life to be "biggered" with one another. And that is good! It is very good.

## Thanksgiving's origins and today's perspectives



by La Shawn  
Courtwright  
Groundcover  
Vendor

Our society has changed a lot since the sixteenth century and so have our cultures and traditions. In earlier years, Thanksgivings were celebrated throughout the year. It now has an official day on which to be observed, the fourth Thursday in November.

Early American settlers included the Pilgrims and the Puritans. Thanksgivings had to do with religion, charity, treaties, and civility. The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth in 1620 and encountered the Native Americans about 1621. A feast was prepared and served as a sort of agreement of peace and civility between the Natives and the colony.

According to Khita, an Ann Arbor resident who identifies herself as of the Mohawk lineage, that early peace and civility was soon forsaken. In June of 1675, Metacomet, chief of the Wampanoag tribe, ended this peaceful co-existence with the Plymouth colony that was begun by his father, Massasoit,

by attacking the town of Swansea. The Narragansett, Wampanoag, and Nipmuck tribes raided isolated villages and farms, murdering inhabitants. Then, New England soldiers, along with Christian Indians, attacked the villages of the tribal community, sometimes burning the entire population alive. Khita believes these raids marked the tribes for genocide and put much of their culture under attack. She says, "Thanksgiving during those times is when the neighborhood went to hell." She believes that Metacomet's son was beheaded and the violence escalated. According to Khita, because the colonists did not understand the ritual practices, language, singing, and medicinal ministrations, further brutal acts befell these tribal folk. She is grateful that former President Jimmy Carter signed legislation protecting the rights of the people of her nation to practice their rituals.

Thanksgiving is a solemn time for Khita to meditate and reflect on many lost traditions, and to connect with her roots. She spends time with friends, family, and others. People in Washtenaw County have widely varying Thanksgiving traditions.

Lon Horwedel said that Thanksgiving

see THANKSGIVING, page 5

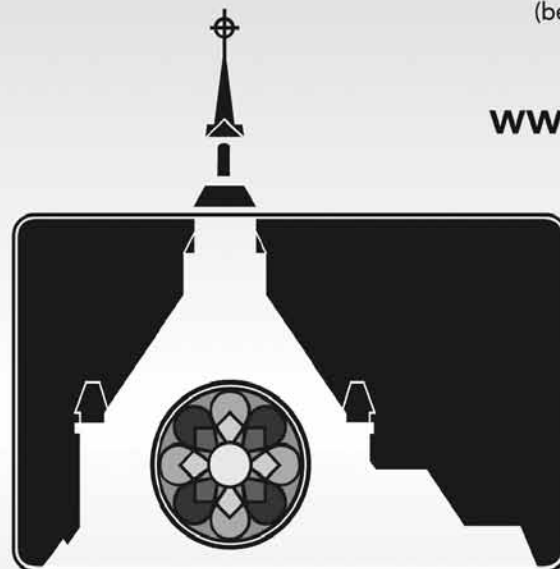
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# HARC services go beyond HIV testing

by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

The HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC) provides free HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, along with myriad services to help their clients meet their immediate needs. Most importantly, it is a safe place for people living with AIDS (PLWA) to be open and share in a stigma-free environment. Staff is available to discuss medical concerns and other issues, needs and goals.

People are often referred to HARC directly from the hospital, where they just learned of their positive HIV status while being treated for an opportunistic infection. It is a lot to come to terms with. At HARC, they find a supportive community prepared to help them overcome the numerous challenges that face PLWA. Navigating the insurance industry is one of the first challenges, followed quickly by getting appropriate medical services and pharmaceuticals, and understanding the treatment regimen.

Often, before people are diagnosed with HIV, their compromised immune systems exposed them to frequent, slow healing infections. Consequently,

many lose their jobs and have medical bills that strain them financially. Others lose their jobs later when their status is discovered and fears lead employers to look for reasons to let them go. Some have drug abuse or mental health issues that left them impoverished long ago.

HARC offers low income clients assistance in meeting their basic needs. They offer a food pantry, partner with medical practitioners, and provide medical transportation service, housing assistance and emergency financial assistance for utilities and the like.

Thanks to the Ryan White Act, a federal law enacted in 1990, an array of services is available to people with HIV/AIDS in Michigan, including medical care. HARC refers patients to Dr. Charles Craig and the U-M HIV/AIDS Treatment Program. (Not all states have managed so well. More than 8,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. are on waiting lists for AIDS drug assistance programs, which help people get lifesaving medications.) Fear of discrimination keeps some people from getting tested for their HIV status and keeps others already diagnosed from coming for counseling or treatment, especially in the smaller communities outside Washtenaw



HARC staff Jimena Loveluck and Leon Golson (front); Lemont Gore, Sheyonna Watson and Mike Wallace (rear) pose in the reception area of the Ypsilanti HARC office.

County. Community outreach work, finding those who need service, and sensitizing everyone, is a big part of HARC's work. Look for testing sites around town around December 1, World AIDS Day. Places and times can be found on the HARC website, [hivaidsresource.org](http://hivaidsresource.org), and the World AIDS Week site, [worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com](http://worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com).

be tested and receive the results in a confidential setting. For appointments at the local HARC office, call 734-572-9355 or 866-HIV-TEST. HARC also does testing at the Jim Toy Community Center located in Braun Court in Ann Arbor and at the Spectrum Center in the Union at the University of Michigan. HARC is currently renting a van to provide testing and services in other areas.

HARC offers rapid testing. In less than one hour, a person can

HARC is located on the border of Ann  
**see HARC, page 10**

## Background of social justice guides HARC director

Small tapestries of rural life decorate the office of HARC director Jimena Loveluck.

These are among the arpilleras her mother would bring from Chile, exhibit at social justice forums, and then sell to financially help the women who made them. The women had sons who disappeared under the reign of dictator Augusto Pinochet. They would gather with the burlap potato sacks that formed the foundation of the arpilleras and share scraps of fabric and yarn that detailed the scene.

Loveluck's family emigrated from Chile shortly before she was born, but the call to social justice and the Latina identity stayed with her and eventually led her to HARC.

Loveluck grew up in Ann Arbor and graduated from the University of Michigan, then departed for Boston to pursue her Masters in Social Work. At a field placement with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

AIDS Bureau, she first got to know people living with HIV and AIDS.

"It brought up all those issues I had been exposed to growing up related to social justice and human rights, but on a domestic level," recalls Loveluck.

Upon finishing her graduate studies, she again worked for the health department, this time as Director of HIV Services for the Whittier Street Health Center in Roxbury, a Boston neighborhood with a significant Hispanic population with which she felt especially comfortable and useful. Only when she and her husband had children, did the pull of family lure them back to Michigan.

Loveluck joined the HARC board in the year 2000 and was soon after hired as director when the position unexpectedly came open. She has seen many changes during her tenure. Once,

new infection rates were highest among men, often middle-aged, having sex with men. Today young heterosexual women and young men having sex with other men are the groups most at risk for new infections.

Along with targeting outreach and education to younger groups, HIV treatment centers are considering a change in treatment protocol. The conventional wisdom in the U.S. has been to delay treatment with antiretroviral drugs (ARV's) until the viral load is high, signaling the transition from an HIV infection to full-blown AIDS.

Studies in Africa are showing that aggressive ARV treatment results in such a small viral load that the likelihood of infecting another person is extremely small. The U.S. may soon change its policies, especially for high risk populations, to early treatment.

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## Wannabes bring home smash hit for the rotating shelter



by Rissa Haynes  
Groundcover Vendor

What do you get when you put together 10 professionals – occupations ranging from attorney, accountant, engineer, and scientist to church minister – and their musical talent equivalent to (or even better than) Billboard's top 10 pop, jazz and country musicians? STEVIE D & THE WANNABES!!!

Those who are in their 50's and 60's may recall the group, AWB (Average White Band), and remember that group as everything except an average white band. So it is with Stevie D and the Wannabes, an excellent and versatile band, which has mastered every genre of music. Rendering their versions of hits from the Beatles to the Blues, Country to Classical Jazz, Roaring 20's to R&B and Pop of the 80's and 90's, they could go, do and be whatever "they wanna be"! Yet they have chosen to do benefits for indigent organizations by

"raisin' [cash in] Hell" – Hell, Michigan, that is. Several charities have already benefited from their gigs in a little pub there. As business booms for the pub, donating and non-donating patrons enjoy the excellent entertainment provided. Portions of the business go toward designated charities. Stevie D & the Wannabes are a smashing hit with all involved in these endeavors. That is what they "wanna be."

The Wannabes' most recent venture was October 23rd at The Creekside Grill in Scio Township, raising funds to benefit The Rotating Church Shelter Program. This program is a winter collaborative effort by a group of churches and The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County to provide some homeless men with a warm place to sleep. Since government funds that assisted this program have shrunk, the program is in jeopardy. However, as Stevie D & The Wannabes delighted the diners with dancing music and The Creekside Grill delivered a very delectable menu (and donated a portion of their proceeds to the cause), the diners delved into

their pockets to help keep The Rotating Church Shelter program going.

Cutbacks to the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC) budgets impelled them to turn to the faith community to preserve the winter rotating shelter program. For years, religious communities in the area have alternated hosting approximately 25 men for a week or two each winter so the men would not have to brave the elements in freezing weather, as there is always more demand for shelter than the Delonis Center can provide in winter. In the past, the program was organized and supervised by Delonis Center staff. This year they have no funding for staffing the program.

So the SAWC turned to Ron Gregg and the Religious Coalition for the Homeless (RCH) to save the program. Gregg and committee members conferred with congregations and settled on a plan to hire coordinators from the community and fundraise their compensation from supportive congregations. To date, \$6,500 of the

estimated \$7,500 needed for staffing has been raised from 16 Washtenaw County area faith organizations. One of the coordinators is a licensed social worker and the other is a low-income community member.

Transportation of the men's bedding and belongings is another task previously undertaken by the SAWC that will be done this year by volunteers. Bethlehem United Church of Christ has taken on funding the van to do the transporting, and the Wannabes' benefit performance was toward that end.

"Not sure of the total yet. We did pull in almost \$900 just from cash and checks at the event. I expect another \$200 or so from Creekside, but I'm not sure yet. And we received \$500 at Bethlehem's office from other churches. So perhaps \$1500-1600, when all the dust settles. Bethlehem has committed to funding the truck, and there is a fund at the church for this," reported Val Jaskiewicz, violinist and fiddler with The Wannabes.

## Thanksgiving remembrances and favorite traditions

continued from page 3

was his favorite day, as a child, through college, and now as a married man. He enjoys this time with family-members. He recalls his Mom and Aunt did a lot of the cooking. He and his cousins play football every year no matter what the weather. "Let's hope for an Indian Summer," says Lon and smiles. Lon has served the homeless community, along with the staff of The Cottage Inn, on Thanksgiving Day for the past five years. A professional photographer, he took photos of the people, too. Thanksgiving means more to him than Christmas. He objects to advertising people treating Thanksgiving as a speed-bump between Halloween and Christmas these days.

Though the concepts of Thanksgiving appear elusive, we all can see charity at work during this season in our community. People who may be hungry are provided with meals, as were the Puritans in the year of 1631, when their resources were exhausted as

they awaited the arrival of *The Lyon*, a supply ship.

Here are some more responses to my question, "What does Thanksgiving mean to you?"

The most good-spirited answer was from a gentleman who put his hands on his abundant girth, patted it, and said, "Because of my weight, I'd rather take a fasting." (In the 1600's Massachusetts Bay Colony Governor John Winthrop declared February 22 a day of fasting to commemorate the day the Lyon showed up in the Boson Harbor with adequate supplies for the starving colonists. It is also the day I gave thanksgiving and praises for my newborn son, Isom.)

Peggy appreciates the privileges and opportunities we have in the USA, and human dignity.

John states that he is a "secular-humanist who just reflects and values his relationships".

Vanity says she enjoys the spiritual unity because growing

up she did not have this.

Aicha from Mali says Thanksgiving is not known to the locals there.

Seth, who is very agreeable, says, "Why not give thanks every day?" and smiles.

Anna says, "Things come up bad-or-good." For five years some of her family separated in the ways they had chosen to celebrate. I reckon accepting change in the family can be something to be thankful for sometimes.

Frank, who is from the Netherlands, says it's not about material things.

Eve Silberman says she spends time with the people she loves, the people you depend on and are there for you. (right on, Eve!)

Finally, the most common responses unnamed individuals shared were: remembering our



A grateful diner enjoys a free Thanksgiving Dinner at Cottage Inn served by volunteers and staff (Photo by Lon Horwedel)

family members who are no longer with us; a day to reflect on all the things to be grateful for; being good to yourself and others; and last but not least, a ceremony of giving thanks where each person takes time to give thanks at the dinner table before feasting.

When we take a deeper look

into what we are thankful for, that is when we find that no matter how many ways they may differ, we share a commonality, no matter what the date, or the different times.

Have a very Happy Thanksgiving all!

# A popular U-M professor once lived a homeless existence

by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

One of the most popular lecturers at the University of Michigan (according to RateMyProfessor.com), Dr. Luis Sfeir-Younis, has boots-on-the-streets experience with some of the subjects he tackles as a sociologist. Having noticed that colleagues, friends and family members tend to disbelieve his story or pretend it never happened, Luis rarely talks about the period in his life when he had no home.

Luis finds even sociologists are reluctant to delve into questions like, "What is the experience of homelessness?" or "What do people go through, what do they feel, and how does the experience transform them?"

Shame also plays a role in his difficulty talking about it; also the stigma. People might assume it was his fault, that his lifestyle was licentious. He fears his friends and colleagues will henceforth see him only through the filter of "a guy who once was homeless." It could well cost him future promotions. Despite innovating the now-popular dialogue groups while teaching a course on racism and founding the Intergroup Relation Conflict office, he has already been frequently passed over for promotions. He is exposing himself to these risks because he might be in a position to help reduce stigma and challenge common assumptions. Always the teacher, he seizes the opportunity to educate.

Luis' story begins with betrayal. He had pioneered the first LSA course on sexuality, "Love and Intimacy," and it was so popular that as many as 500 students were enrolled at a time. His inclusion of gay rights led to two death threats. He needed escorts around campus and could no longer work late at the library. The Sociology department chair was unhappy with the course because he claimed it required too much administrative support. It was cut, though Luis received a commendation for his teaching and providing a platform for exploring feminist issues, and had other courses to teach. Ultimately, the death threats and lack of support impelled Luis to leave his job lecturing at U-M in 1990.

His brother urged him to return to South America and join him in developing a lottery for Venezuela. He accepted and helped guide a thriving enterprise that expanded to include providing software, marketing and technical support to 300 weekly television shows. Though he excelled as an executive, his marriage deteriorated.

Luis gave his wife and children both their homes and all their personal assets, assuming the business assets would continue to provide him a high standard of living.

"I made in one month then what I make in an entire year now," Luis recalls.

Missing the stimulation of academic life and realizing that teaching was his true vocation, he left the business in 2000. Infuriated at Luis' departure, his brother refused to give him any of the business assets or pay him what he was owed. As it was a family enterprise, there were no formal contracts to fall back on – and his brother was the company owner. Chavez was in power and the business climate in Venezuela was not good. Luis left for Florida, where he had been a frequent guest at the Ft. Lauderdale area beach resorts. He settled in Hollywood and used the little money he had to get an apartment and look for a new business opportunity.

Luis managed to stay in his apartment for a while, doing maintenance work for the landlord in exchange for rent, but that left him with no money for food and other essentials and no time to look for work. He received support from a family member for several months. That income ceased when the family member felt the financial pinch and did not see Luis clearly moving toward self-sufficiency.

He slept on the beach for several weeks, using the public showers meant for washing off the salt water after a swim. He learned to shower very early or very late, when the beach patrons were not present with their disapproving looks upon seeing his soap and shampoo. He learned to sleep during the day, impersonating a tourist relaxing on the beach. His personal pain and frustration were powerful, but he did not indulge in drinking or drugs. He did not want to borrow money or confide in his family or friends. He was sad, depressed, rebellious and negative about society.

Wandering the streets, he came upon a belly dancing studio that was unused early in the day. He inquired about the possibility of teaching a yoga class there in the morning. (As a graduate student in 1973, Luis helped found The Yoga Center of Ann Arbor.) Intrigued, the owner asked for a number where she could reach him when she was ready to discuss it further. Upon hearing that he didn't have a phone number but could stop by again in a few days, she quickly figured out his situation and made him an offer. The studio had a bed in the back that he could use when the studio was empty, generally between midnight

and five or six in the morning.

Stunned, Luis protested that she knew nothing about him and should not take such a chance. She looked him straight in the eye and said, "I know who you are. In fact, I leave for a three week belly dancing course in Egypt next month and I will leave you in charge of the studio while I'm gone."

Luis asked if she had done something like this before. She replied, "Yes, one night I saw a woman outside the bus station clutching a briefcase and crying in the rain. I called her over and she explained she had just run away from a man who had lured her and four other women from abroad to marry him. He made them work and kept all their money. She stayed with me and we are still very close."

Luis gratefully accepted her offer. For food, he relied on pizza joints that were closing and willing to give him their left-over pizza, though as a vegetarian he also had to beg for meatless pieces. He knew on which day the local supermarket sold large tubs of cottage cheese for one dollar. He searched the Salvation Army and dumpsters for usable clothing and once pulled out a bicycle that was in terrible shape. A man riding by saw him and asked if he wanted to buy his bike for \$10. Luis gratefully accepted, though that was all the money he had.

He taught yoga wisdom in the morning and found a job as a gas attendant in the evening. In between, he returned to the beach for a shower and nap. One day he awoke on the beach, his eye touching the sand, and realized his eye was an angry, large red ball. After a four-hour wait in the emergency room, the emergency room physician examined him from a distance and proclaimed, "You have an eye infection."

Luis concurred and asked for a prescription but was told he needed to see an eye doctor but there wasn't one at the hospital that day. He referred him to a private eye doctor on the other side of town, but Luis explained he had no way to get there. The ER doc paid for his cab ride. Luis was self-conscious



Dr. Luis Sfeir-Younis

in the eye doctor's waiting room and the receptionist regarded him nervously. The doctor saw him and brought him into his office. Luis asked only for a prescription, explaining that he could not pay for an examination. The doctor examined him thoroughly just the same and told Luis, "You will pay me when you can." Luis was profoundly grateful to the doctor, especially for not shying away from touching him.

Exhausted and unable to work during the ensuing days, Luis laid down one evening on a park bench and slept. He awoke to a police car shining its lights in his eyes and an officer ordering him to get up. Confused, Luis asked for an explanation and was kindly informed that it was against the law to lie down and sleep on a public bench. He soon learned to sleep sitting up.

Riding his blue bicycle to the gas station one rainy night, missing his family and the girlfriend still waiting in Venezuela, Luis realized that just another five cents an hour would allow him to start saving for an apartment. Weeping in the rain, lamenting he was 53 years old and his life had come to this, Luis embraced his identity as a homeless person. He accepted the cracks in his skin from a lack of moisturizer, the lack of luster in his hair from the cheap shampoo, the overlong beard, the wrinkled

see PROFESSOR, page 10





# Street newspaper conference benefits vendors, volunteers



by **Shelley DeNeve**  
**Groundcover Vendor**

Five representatives from Groundcover attended the 2011 North American

Street Newspaper Association (NASNA) conference held in Nashville, Tenn. October 13-16. NASNA is an organization that supports and cultivates effective self-sustaining street newspapers which promote power and opportunity for people living in poverty. NASNA is strongly committed to empowering local street newspapers to develop leadership among poor people, while cultivating journalistic integrity and sustainable street papers.

NASNA's annual conference was hosted by Nashville's own street newspaper, The Contributor. Have you heard of that street newspaper before? Or maybe you heard of StreetWise from Chicago or Real Change from Seattle. There were approximately 60 registrants and a total of 14 street newspapers from around the United States and Canada attending the conference. There were also two newly established papers and four prospective new newspapers. The conference started with the attendees having the pleasure of meeting and greeting noted journalist, writer and political figure John Seigenthaler for whom the conference location, the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt

University, is named. He is known as a prominent defendant of freedom of expression. He also wrote for The Tennessean and was the founding editorial director of USA Today.

The conference consisted of three workshop tracks. Each person chose one of the following tracks per session:

- Vendor Track (Vendor Behavior, Vendor Forum)
- Editorial Track (Editorial Collaboration, Editorial Basics)
- Fundraising Track (Surviving and Thriving in a Small Shop, Finding the Money)

Each day there were two to three workshops for each track. Friday evening, conference attendees were invited to the Street Newspaper Awards dinner held at an old bank in downtown Nashville that was converted into a home owned by a fellow named Wan Choi. Speakers included Nashville Mayor, Karl Dean, and keynote speaker Lee Stringer. Stringer is the author of two books – Sleepaway and Grand Central Winter – based on the 12 years he lived homeless and addicted under New York City's Grand Central Station.

Mr. Stringer was a former editor and columnist for the New York street newspaper, Street News. He also has written essays that have appeared in various notable publications such as



**TOP: (from left) Groundcover representatives Shelley DeNeve, La Shawn Courtwright, Lee Alexander, Rissa Haynes and Susan Beckett at the national street newspaper conference in Nashville, Tenn.**



**LEFT: Rissa Haynes at breakfast with attendees from all over the United States and Canada**

The Nation, The New York Times and Newsday.

After the workshops on Saturday, attendees road a bus to downtown Nashville to tour The Contributor office, housed in a Presbyterian church. At the end of the tour, the annual meeting was held in the sanctuary of

the church to elect four new board members. Afterward, attendees were able to go check out the sights and sounds of Nashville. Luckily, the Americana Music Festival was going on and top-flight entertainment of all types was available through the night at different establishments.

## What Groundcover attendees brought home from the conference

### **C. Lee Alexander:**

The street newspaper tribe is a small family spread across a large area. Having a meeting like this is a big deal for us. It isn't often that you meet such a large group of people that you have so much in common with. We speak the same language. Some of these organizations have been around for a decade or more. We're so young by comparison. They are great mentors for us and it's exciting that they're so willing and interested in helping Groundcover grow.

For me, the highlight of the trip was the awards dinner. It was a chance for NASNA to celebrate our collective successes. I was moved by the professionalism of our membership. I think we all left feeling like winners.

### **Shelley DeNeve:**

The scenery was grand. The weather was terrific. We stayed in dorm rooms at Vanderbilt University. While at the workshops, we enjoyed delicious and nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks. In the workshops I felt I was able to voice my opinion and ask

questions without feeling unimportant or brushed off like in the corporate world. I felt a great deal of camaraderie with people I have never met before. I felt we all had something in common: to sell a great street newspaper that everyone wants to read. I thought to myself, "Wow, there is really something to this street newspaper business." I'm hoping that GCN will grow in popularity to the point where we can have some paid staff. I would like to be a part of that staff at some point.

I would also like to incorporate some new material that I have seen in the other street newspapers that we currently don't put in our paper. New types of writing would make our paper even more irresistible to read. I want to thank all who contributed to our scholarship fund. If it weren't for you, we would not have been able to partake in this opportunity to grow personally and professionally.

### **Rissa Haynes:**

Many thanks and deep gratitude to the financial and in-kind gift donors who

afforded me the opportunity for a great experience at the NASNA conference. I enjoyed the excitement expressed by people from every imaginable and unimaginable background. These people were enthusiastic about the opportunity to voice their emotions and empowered by the press to both earn an honest income and educate the public from a perspective that is rarely heard.

I met and heard from President John F. Kennedy's administrative assistant, John Seigenthaler. He was one of the founders of the First Amendment building, where we had many of our nutritious and delicious meals along with insightful seminars and forums. I met an inspirational former vendor who secretly shopped and encouraged new vendors as her "mission." I was personally escorted by a real estate investor who turned a downtown bank into his private home and shared this private home with NASNA for the Awards Banquet.

I went to the conference with a grateful heart to the donors who made it

possible for me to attend the NASNA conference. While at the conference, I was impacted and impressed mostly by the passionate people with a poignant purpose, whom I met personally. As I left Nashville, I left with the encouragement to continue that legacy of empowerment, impact and inspiration. Again, thanks to everyone who made this wonderful experience possible.

### **LaShawn Courtwright:**

I was honored to hear and speak with authors Lee Stringer and Chris Scott F. These men have a miraculous ability to make people feel like Alice in Wonderland, because even if you haven't been there, you will almost be able to say you have when they describe it. I learned some key principles that will assist me in developing my writing style. I was honored to be presented writings from the two as well: Lee Stringer's Grand Central Winter, Stories from the Street which he autographed and wrote a simple message for me

**see Street, page 12**

### Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

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	9	3	1				2	

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Cryptoquote

“CGOCAIYSL IQC RFNTE IF INCZI JFD XZYNTJ

MCAZDKC JFD ZNC Z LFFE OCNKFS YK Z TYIITC

TYHC CGOCAIYSL Z MDTT SFI IF ZIIZAH JFD

MCAZDKC JFD ZNC Z UCLCIZNYZS.”

— ECSSYK RQFTCJ

GROUNDCOVER VENDOR CODE

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

*All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:*

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.
- I agree to treat all customers, staff, other vendors respectfully. I will not “hard sell,” threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

**If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to: [contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com) 734-972-0926**

### Plymouth Colony

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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	48						49				50	51
52				53							54	55
56				57		58				59		
60						61				62		
63						64				65		

#### ACROSS

1. Healing tissue
5. Jacob's brother
9. One of the Hindu Vedas
14. Story
15. Scandinavian native
16. City in Sardinia
17. Heraldry decoration
18. Folk singer Lee
19. Indian film director Samanta
20. Romance
21. Athletics
23. Sharp sound
24. The Pilgrims' military leader
27. Fencing sword
28. Creature of folklore
29. With the most velocity
32. Ram's mate
33. Man's name
36. Where Mont Blanc is
37. Director Preminger
38. Actress Sandra
39. Priest's robe
42. Uninvited visitor at a gathering
45. Weird
47. Pacific island dance
48. One of the governors of Plymouth Colony
52. River in France
53. New York theater
54. Word of negation
56. Woman's name
58. Japanese teen singer Aika
59. Current carrier
60. Rivulets
61. Narrow opening
62. Rubber tube
63. Champion racehorse of the 1960s
64. Actress Daly
65. Dollar bills

#### DOWN

1. Store
2. Billiards shot
3. Steel or brass
4. Insect
5. Passes
6. The first Indian to meet the Pilgrims
7. Shipboard direction
8. Steal one's thunder
9. Natashquan (Quebec) Airport (abbr.)
10. Melbourne native
11. Jamestown resident and sea captain who mapped New England
12. Dickens character
13. Play
21. Sao \_\_\_\_\_, river and town in Brazil
22. Precipitation
25. \_\_\_\_\_ go!
26. Ctrl-P function (abbr.)
29. Pet rock, for one
30. Beverage
31. Mayflower's companion, it turned back due to unseaworthiness
34. Chowd down
35. Neither
37. Motorcycle safety initiative (abbr.)
39. Genus of macaw
40. Italian currency (prior to the euro)
41. Furniture part
42. The oldest Mayflower passenger
43. Be behind schedule
44. What's more
46. Towns in Maryland and Virginia
48. Actress Adams
49. Made of sheep hair
50. Shallot
51. Inferior
52. Bird
55. Golf equipment
57. European astronomy group (abbr.)
59. Doctor \_\_\_\_\_

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond



- Tea
- Spices
- Coffee
- Snacks
- Flour
- Beans
- Grains
- Dried Fruits
- Pasta
- Nuts
- Candy
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**"GOOD ADVICE"**

by La Shawn Courtwright

Thank you for your good advice  
 I'm very honored to have such a direct word;  
 one which assists me in how I should direct my own words  
 and use them to help....  
 others!

I feel revived, with much vigor!  
 Put forward to perform my tasks.  
 I'm not afraid anymore,  
 Now, I know I don't have to put on any particular face,  
 or hide behind my

**MASKS!!**

I will use this knowledge so that it may properly guide  
 my steps.  
 I'm gracious for the times when a little bit of precious time is taken  
 out for

someone like me.....  
 when I needed help!

THANK YOU for your good advice!!!

**Betrothed**

by Gina Reed

*Purged, stretched beyond the pain  
 through the indwelling Christ, I am  
 born again.*

*Baptized in a crucible of holy fire until  
 my will is one with my father's desire.  
 Day by day my reactions are no longer  
 the same.*

*It is the gift of grace that is changing  
 my name.*

*Compelled by love to follow an unknown  
 direction*

*which leads to the sacred place where  
 I am betrothed to the object of my  
 affection.*

**Autumn Leaves**

by David DK Dodge

Leaves upon the wind,  
 a sky of cold November morn  
 foretells of rain until midday  
 and more beyond-  
 and through the distance,  
 evidences motion in the air:  
 the winter sparrow flying from the corn;  
 the wires' undulation twixt the poles;  
 the action of the water on the shore,  
 and from the swaying trees  
 the rushing sound and nuded forms  
 evince the time:  
 the time of fallow fields gone brown;  
 of later day and low ascent;  
 of icy dew upon the ground;

of dormant beings gone in;  
 of hearth's awakened inner light;

of thrift; of thoughts of seasons passed,  
 of leaves upon the wind.

**Working vehicle  
wanted**

Groundcover relies on sales at area churches and other faith organizations to help us connect with patrons during the winter. None of our current vendors has a functioning vehicle, which greatly restricts our sales range, especially on Sunday when buses start late and have reduced schedules. If you have a working vehicle to donate, please email [contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com).

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# Professor still lives in fear of abject poverty

continued from page 6

clothes that he couldn't afford to dry thoroughly, and even the smell. He proclaimed his identity as a homeless person and the pervasive sadness lifted. He was relieved to no longer be constantly on the brink of tears, grateful for peace and acceptance and having sidestepped the depression and substance abuse that so often entrapped people in his condition.

"I had plastic bags with clothes and plastic bags with toiletries and plastic bags with food, all dangling from my bike. I think people feel that when you are homeless you have bad luck with you and it could be contagious, like a cancer. People never want to be close to you, they even cross the street."

Despite her normal distaste for the homeless, the Chilean woman who ran the local laundromat befriended Luis. She introduced him to another customer who worked at Jet Blue Airlines and told him of a janitorial opening there. He got the job, in part by pretending to be an uneducated immigrant. He had already learned that people, even other homeless people, doubted the credulity of his actual story and suspected him of covering up a more nefarious past.

The cleaning job replaced pumping gas but entailed a long bike ride between Hollywood and Ft. Lauderdale, leaving him little time to sleep in the studio bed, but allowing him to start saving. He'd look out at the private jets lining the runways at night and wonder if one of them was his brother's. He recalled how often he had passed through the airport as a businessman, oblivious to those who lived as he now did. "When you are homeless, society looks like condensed selfishness," Luis observes. He was isolated with no access to technology, spurned by the people in his immediate environment who considered him a pest, and overwhelmed by other homeless

people. He found himself walking down the street talking to himself, reconstructing his life story to make sense of his situation, vacillating between his internal identity as the educated son of an ambassador and his external identity as a homeless man. He cherished small acts of kindness.

At a plaza in Hollywood, the unhoused gathered in the early evening. One fastidious man, sporting clothes fashionable decades earlier, always sat alone on a bench and read the paper, never speaking to anyone. When he finished, he'd present the paper to Luis. One day a group of college boys came to the plaza in a van. At first he feared an attack, but he soon looked forward to their visits, replete with sandwiches and beer. A non-drinker, Luis gave his beer to the newspaper reading man on the bench. He was profoundly grateful for the contact.

Still, he felt blessed. People began to value his homelessness, regarding him like a Buddhist monk. He was thin and strong from his daily yoga. The shame and sadness departed. "My whole life I had a belly, but then my body felt good and strong. I was okay with what I was, and life offered me what I needed. It became a life of miracles. One night I really needed toilet paper. I didn't have the money to buy it and I didn't want to just take some from work or a

public bathroom. I was admiring the planes on the runway while working that evening and there, sitting in the middle of the runway, was a roll of toilet paper!"

"I was more myself then than perhaps any other time in my life... Homelessness led me to profound reflection on life and self."

— Dr. Luis Sfeir-Younis

He wanted to reconnect with his loved ones, but did not want to be part of that cold, selfish world. He realized he would miss the acts of kindness and that maybe people were better off without so much. "I was more myself then than perhaps any other time in my life," Luis muses. "Homelessness led me to profound reflection on life and self."

His son was in trouble back in Washtenaw County, so Luis scraped together airfare and returned to Ann Arbor. Walking by U-M, he ran into the chair of his old department. The chair greeted him warmly and declared, "I'm so glad you are interested in coming back! Come in September." (This surprised Luis as no response to his letters of inquiry on the subject had made it back to him.)

Asked for his salary requirements, Luis replied, "Pay me what you think is fair."

An unexpected need for the spring term moved Luis' start-up to May and, like Dorothy returning to Kansas, his life circumstances once again abruptly underwent a dramatic change. He was able to bring his girlfriend to the

states and marry her. People who had rejected him were once again proud of him. It was as if the preceding two years had never happened. Yet he was fundamentally different.

His teaching improved with his greater sensitivity to injustice. Thanks largely to his wife's staunch defense of animal rights, he developed a new focus on animals and society, based on his conviction that animals are sentient beings. He draws parallels between animal cruelty and human oppression, and offers a new perspective for understanding the social concerns of those facing discrimination.

He frets that in Ann Arbor, the homeless are regarded as interesting fixtures outside our circle of concern who merely add to the character of the town.

"We have a moral obligation to help the homeless," Luis said. "To be concerned about the homeless is not something nice, a kind of charitable act, but a moral obligation. It may very well be that those who are not homeless may have contributed, in some direct or indirect way, to creating particular social conditions that force a family to homelessness, keep a family homeless, or prevent a family from leaving homelessness. We may have organized our social life in such a way that for some to live comfortably at home it requires others to end up homeless. Not being aware of such a link or denying that it exists does not exempt us from such a moral obligation. Denying responsibility and support to the homeless is cruel, unjust, and unethical."

Luis lives still in fear of a recurrence of abject poverty, especially for the sake of his wife and three year old daughter. He finds himself overeating against the possibility of again going hungry, buying more than he needs of a staple that is on sale. No longer is he insulated by the illusion that "It couldn't happen

## Groundcover position available

**Wanted:** a commission-based advertising sales manager for Groundcover News. Anyone interested should email their resumes and letter of interest to [contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com).

## HARC hosts annual fundraiser

continued from page 4

Arbor and Ypsilanti but serves all of Washtenaw County and beyond. They have a satellite office in Jackson and partner with community health workers there and in Lenawee and Livingston Counties, too. For an appointment in the Jackson office, call 517-780-3262.

Ann Arbor Wine Cellar, HARC's annual fundraiser, will take place on

December 1. The wine and appetizer gala is hosted this year by Metal, a workshop and gallery located at 220 Felch St. Tickets are \$50 in advance or \$55 at the door. Everyday Wines and local celebrities and collectors secure wines that are raffled off in bundles, including the grand prize of an instant wine cellar collection.

Local caterers will provide appetizers and the chocolate fountain from Schokolad is always a big hit.



# U-M fraternity hosts annual "Sleepout for the Homeless"

by Francesca Lupia  
Groundcover Contributor

*"Rain or shine, it's always going to happen."*

— Christian Love

The evening of Thursday, October 20, 2011 arrived with chilly winds that put Christian Love's claim to the test. However, the University of Michigan student's unwavering commitment to service triumphed over the damp weather. Love and several fellow members of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Delta Rho Chapter, were unfazed by the rain as they stood behind a folding table in the Diag, collecting canned food, clothes, and monetary donations for the fraternity's annual "Sleepout for the Homeless" event.

"It keeps you going, to help out for a good cause," Love said of the event. Indeed, the annual event is a pivotal one for fraternity members and homeless individuals

alike. Incarnated in 1991, the "Sleepout" is a 12-hour campaign to raise awareness of homelessness in Washtenaw County. Fraternity members arrive at the Diag in the early evening and collect donations until the next morning.

Homeless individuals are invited to take food and other necessities from the donation table. After the event, fraternity members deliver all monetary donations to the Salvation Army. Clothes and food are donated to the Delonis Center Shelter Association of Washtenaw County.

The Sleepout for the Homeless consistently draws interest and support from the Ann Arbor community. Fraternity president Vincent Barnes attributes the event's success to the ample effort members pour into planning and publicizing the Sleepout, calling his organization "adamant about community service." Their members complete two service projects every month. While many of these initiatives,

such as distributing food in Liberty Park Plaza, focus on raising support for Ann Arbor's homeless community, the Sleepout for the Homeless is the fraternity's most anticipated and recognized project.

Planning for the event begins several months prior, at the fraternity's annual end-of-spring-semester retreat. Time at the retreat is spent planning for the coming fall's Sleepout, critiquing the previous year's event, and formulating ideas for improvement. Once the groundwork is set, attention turns to gathering resources and advertising the event. Members pass out flyers, send emails, and visit local homeless shelters to raise awareness for the Sleepout. Much of the event's support comes from local restaurants that donate food in advance.

In recent years, the fraternity brothers have provided hot food and shelter (a large tent) for homeless individuals, and drawn crowds to the donation



The Delta Rho Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. has hosted their annual Sleepout for two decades.

booth with music and grilling. This year, they were forced to downsize their event due to new restrictions on student activities resulting from a recent string of sexual assaults on campus. That said, the group remained visible and eager to inform, amassing a steadily growing pile of cans, bags, and crates in their small booth on the Diag. Despite limitations, Phi Beta Sigma's members remain enthusiastic

about the Sleepout's future.

"It's great to give people a little more," commented two-year fraternity member Darren Gordon. "It helps you appreciate the little things."

While Phi Beta Sigma's tireless efforts may go unappreciated by some, their commitment and zeal will surely continue to benefit Ann Arbor's homeless community — rain or shine.

## Next up for Phi Beta Sigma — Sex'Us Hold'Em

The Sex'Us Hold'em tournament that Phi Sigma Beta Fraternity, Inc. runs during the University of Michigan's World AIDS Week each year is a fun-filled mash-up of poker and HIV and AIDS education and awareness. It plays off of the popular Texas Hold'em poker tournament.

According to fraternity president

and Kinesiology major Vincent A. Barnes, Jr., "We teach people how to play poker and host a tournament while educating the attendees on issues concerning HIV and AIDS. We use an assortment of condoms as poker chips during the event to create a safe, nonjudgmental environment for people to participate in.

"Last year, we partnered with Sexperteam and University Health Services to provide free confidential HIV testing. The winners of the poker tournament choose from an array of prizes that the Delta Rho chapter purchases from the Safe Sex Store. The event is always planned around AIDS in Black and Brown, a series of AIDS Awareness events

sponsored by the Black Student Union."

The tournament is free and open to the public. Time and location for this and all other events during the week of November 28 - December 4 can be found at the World AIDS Week website, [worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com](http://worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com)

## CRYPTOQUOTE

"Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is a little like expecting a bull not to attack you because you are a vegetarian."

— Dennis Wholey

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7	5	6	4	2	9	1	3	8
8	1	2	6	3	7	9	5	4
4	9	3	1	8	5	7	2	6



**Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2011**

## Street newspaper conference provides great ideas

continued from page 7

to keep in mind, and Chris Scott F's writings for The Contributor. Chris shares a love for writing poetry just as I do.

I picked up on some other significant things on fundraising, article collaborations, expectations and responsibilities of Board Members. I learned about other organizations that help support the NASNA mission such as the "Housing First" program. One of the most important things that I learned was about First Amendment Freedom of Speech rights and battle between NASNA and Williamson County, one of the wealthiest counties in the U.S., over the right to sell newspapers there. The ACLU is representing NASNA in what many consider to be a landmark case. I was awarded a NASNA scholarship to attend this conference and was also accepted as a member of the Membership Committee for NASNA. THANK YOU for such a wonderful

opportunity and experience.

### Susan Beckett:

At this year's conference, I sought advice on making the transition from a successful volunteer effort to an established, ongoing venture. Good suggestions included:

- Invest in quality database software to track our vendor data, advertisers, volunteers and donors
- Supply vendors with end-of-year totals of papers they got from us and how much they paid for them
- Interview prospective vendors and inject supplemental training at each of the vendor milestones
- Cultivating and developing low-income writers
- Have half a year's salary in the bank before hiring an employee
- Assemble a strong advisory board committed to fundraising
- Assemble a strong junior advisory board focused on recruiting
- Hold a fundraising event

### Attend a Feature and Profile Writing Workshop

Three weeks running: Nov. 3, 10, 17  
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Bethlehem UCC in downtown Ann Arbor.

Workshop led by Vickie Elmer, contributing author to Fortune, the New York Times,

Washington Post and the Ann Arbor Observer. Guest presenters Kyle Poplin, editor of The Ann and Eve Silberman, Profiles editor of the Ann Arbor Observer. Cost: \$30 donation or promise to write two articles for Groundcover. Registration required. Email contact@groundcovernews.com



### Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

between William and Packard

[www.bethlehem-ucc.org](http://www.bethlehem-ucc.org) (734) 665-6149

Bethlehem Church is home for the Groundcover Office

#### Sundays:

8:30 am and 10:00 am ~ Worship  
10:00 am ~ Church School

#### Upcoming Events:

Parking for each home football game

(All proceeds to help fund our youth activities)

**November 11 ~ Annual Luncheon/Bake Sale/Bazaar**

(10:00 am/luncheon served 11:30 am to 1:00 pm ~ cost \$10.00)

**November 20 ~ Sunday Fresh Produce Collection for Food Gatherers**

**December 3 ~ Saturday Worship/Christmas Hymn Sing at 5:30 pm**

*an invitation to grow in spirit and serve with joy*

## Groundcover News Advertising Rates

Size	Black and White	Color	Approx. Size
Business card	\$49.95	\$65.95	2 X 3.5
1/8	\$89.95	\$129.95	2.5 X 6.5 or 5 X 3.25
1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	4.5 X 5.5
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 X 6.5
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	5 X 14 or 6.5 X 10
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10 X 14

## Package Pricing

Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off

Six Months/Six Issues: 25% off

Full Year/Twelve Issues: 35% off

Additional 20% off ads with coupons